

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 SIG-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 CPR-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /088 R

DRAFTED BY EA

APPROVED BY TXO/SECRETARY

EA - MR. HUMMEL

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

S - DPASSAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223128

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CH, US

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE FOR US PARTICIPATION IN COMMEMORATIVE
ACTIVITIES ON THE DEATH OF PRC CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG

1. THE PRC HAS ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF CHINESE COMMUNIST
PARTY CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES
GUIDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION BY US OFFICIALS IN COMMEMORATIVE
ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY PRC MISSIONS AT THIRD-COUNTRY
POSTS.

2. IF A CONDOLENCE BOOK IS OPENED AND THE US POST IS
EITHER SPECIFICALLY INVITED TO SIGN OR IS INCLUDED IN A
CIRCULAR NOTE OR OTHER GENERAL INVITATION, THE CHIEF OF
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MISSION, CHARGE, OR PRINCIPAL OFFICER SHOULD SIGN FOR USG.

INDIVIDUAL US OFFICIALS MAY ALSO SIGN, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION.

3. A NUMBER OF POSTS REPORTED THAT THEY WERE OMITTED FROM GENERAL INVITATIONS TO SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOKS ON OCCASION OF CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH. IN THOSE CASES WHERE POSTS NEVERTHELESS PERSISTED IN EFFORTS TO SIGN, DEPARTMENT IS UNAWARE OF ANY CHINESE REBUFF. ACCORDINGLY, POSTS

WHICH DO NOT INITIALLY RECEIVE SUCH INVITATIONS ARE AUTHORIZED TO USE THEIR OWN DISCRETION IN PROBING CHINESE INTENTIONS AND IN DECIDING, IF SITUATION STILL AMBIGUOUS, WHETHER OR NOT TO SIGN.

4. REGARDLESS OF OFFICIAL CONDOLENCE POSTURE, IF PERSONAL RELATIONS WARRANT THE CHIEF OF MISSION MAY SEEK AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY HIS PERSONAL CONDOLENCES TO HIS PRC COUNTERPART.

5. POSTS MAY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER FORMS OF OBSERVANCE (WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES IN CASE OF CHOU, BUT CANNOT RULE IT OUT IN MAO'S CASE) AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL IF INVITED TO ATTEND. IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES, EVEN IF SUCH OBSERVANCES TAKE PLACE, US REPRESENTATIVES WILL PROBABLY NOT BE INVITED.

6. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEF REPORTS ON PRC HANDLING OF FUNERAL OBSERVANCES, PARTICULARLY ANY UNUSUAL ASPECTS.

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